

REMARKS

I. General Remarks

Claims 18, 23, 27-30, 32, 37, and 38 have been amended herein, and claims 24-25 and 40 have been cancelled herein.

Applicants have considered all points made by the Examiner in the Office Action and has responded to same in order to ensure compliance with the applicable rules.

II. Amendment to the Specification

The paragraph beginning on line 18 of page 7 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added by this amendment.

III. Remarks Regarding the 35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejection

Claims 18-32 and 37-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 24-25 and 40 have been cancelled herein and are therefore no longer relevant to this rejection.

Independent claims 18 and 23 have been amended to remove the language objected to by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection as to independent claims 18 and 23, and correspondingly, as to claims 19-22 and 26-32, 37-39, and 41-42.

CONCLUSION

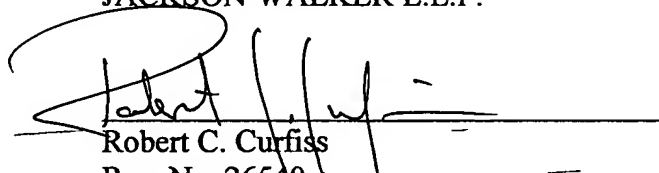
Authorization is hereby given to charge Deposit Account No. 10-0096 for any deficiency of fees.

The Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned for a teleconference to resolve any outstanding issues, as this Response is believed to put the case in condition for allowance.

At this time and in view of Applicants' amendments and arguments set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

JACKSON WALKER L.L.P.



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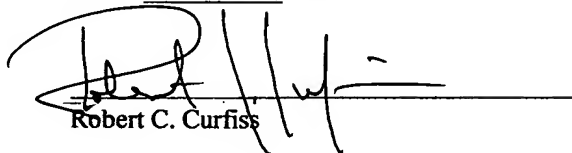
832-573-1442

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on the date shown below with the United States Postal Service, with sufficient postage as First Class Mail (37 CFR 1.8(a)), in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450.

Date: December 7, 2006



Robert C. Curfiss